

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



October 24, 2016

Ms. Helen Davis
Engineering Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
2111 Wilson Blvd., Suite 500
Arlington, VA 22201

RE: Clarification of California's certification requirements for split system central air conditioners

Dear Ms. Davis:

This letter confirms a mutual understanding from discussions held between AHRI and Energy Commission staff during December 2015 through February 2016 on how split-system central air-conditioners are to be certified to the Energy Commission's modernized appliance efficiency database system (MAEDBS). This guidance applies only to single-phase split-system central air conditioners with a rated cooling capacity less than 65,000 Btu/hour.

The Energy Commission's Appliance Efficiency Regulations require only the highest national sales volume tested combination to appear in MAEDBS. This is based on the U.S. Department of Energy's testing and certification requirements for these products. (See 10 C.F.R. § 429.16(b)(2).). Manufacturers must test the compressor-containing unit with a non-compressor-containing unit that is most likely to represent the highest national sales volume for the combined equipment. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, §§ 1604(c)(3).) Manufacturers would then certify to MAEDBS the efficiency rating of that tested combination, with the model number representing that of the compressor-containing unit.

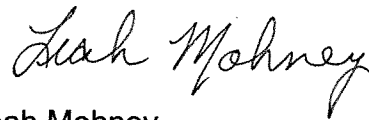
To sell or offer for sale a split-system central air conditioner in California, the manufacturer must have certified to MAEDBS the compressor-containing unit (condensing unit or outdoor coil) matched with a non-compressor-containing unit (indoor coil) that represents the highest sales volume combination. (See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, §§ 1606(a)(1)(F).) Other combinations are eligible for sale in California as long as the compressor-containing unit in that combination appears in MAEDBS and the system meets minimum federal efficiency standards.

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To install a split-system central air conditioner in California, the compressor-containing unit must appear in MAEDBS. (See Cal. Code Regs., Tit. 24, § 110.1.) If a higher efficiency than reported in MAEDBS is claimed for credit under the Energy Commission's Building Energy Efficiency Standards, then a U.S. Department of Energy database or an approved trade association database may be used to verify the efficiency of the installed matched combination. (See Cal. Code Regs., Tit. 24, § 110.1(b).)

For more information, please contact me at (916) 653-5851.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leah Mohney". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leah Mohney
Supervisor
Appliance Efficiency Program